

The historic Old Country Store building located adjacent to the Kennesaw pedestrian underpass went for a ride this morning. Traffic in downtown Kennesaw witnessed the old building on its journey down Main Street and Watts Drive enroute to its new home in Adams Park. It will be renovated and used to support the Kennesaw Farmers Market next spring.

The Country Store was built in the early 1900's on Wade Green Road near what is now I-75. It closed and fell into disrepair until it was donated to the city in the 1990's. It was relocated to downtown Kennesaw by the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority (KDDA) in order to save the structure because of its historic value. However, the construction of the pedestrian underpass and its connected plaza as well as plans to expand Trackside Grill restaurant parking derailed renovation efforts at the downtown site.

The KDDA determined to explore other options for the building than demolition and finally decided that a second move, this time to the city's Adams Park, would give the store a new home. With the help of a forklift and operators from Tug Technologies, Inc., a Kennesaw based manufacturer of airport ground support vehicles, the building was lifted and transported to its new site this morning. The KDDA, supported by Kennesaw Parks & Recreation staff, will renovate the store and use it as a staging area and "billboard" for the seasonal Farmers Market.

"We're delighted that we found a way to save this piece of Kennesaw history," said Mayor Mark Mathews. "Visitors to the Farmers Market next spring will be able to sit on the porch and observe the goings-on. We'd like to thank Don Swanson, Tony Adcock and Frank Cagle of Tug Tech for donating their time to help us with this project."

